

Ms. Farrell uses innovative strategies for workforce development and promotion of nursing. Faced with an increasing demand and a limited supply of nurses, she established partnerships with the local high school and higher education to train new nurses. In 2002, Mary initiated the MCH Nursing Scholarship Program, funded by MCH employees, which has provided over \$9,000 for local nursing students. She has been honored by various organizations for her leadership, and has formed partnerships with many organizations to keep the best and brightest nurses in their communities. Her dedication to nursing is an inspiration to nursing leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell for her excellence in the field of Outstanding Administration. I invite my colleagues in wishing Mary many years of continued success.

ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, as Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, I am proud to recognize the significance of "National Teacher Day". Teachers are a valuable source of morals, veracity and integrity for millions of students in Puerto Rico and the United States. The Congress of the United States and various teachers' organizations have recognized their devotion and commitment through "National Teachers Day," since the 1940's.

The work that teachers perform every single day is worthy of such recognition. Unfortunately, violence in schools has become a common denominator affecting teachers and students alike. Earlier this year in Puerto Rico, we have seen students and teachers attacked or killed by students in their classrooms, turning schools into a battle field where teachers and students are losing their lives. Episodes of this nature demean and undermine this remarkable profession, and erode the spirit of education.

Teachers are a testament of perseverance in every student. As Members of Congress, we must focus on the contributions that every single teacher makes to the development of a healthy, well-educated and cultured youth in our society. The issues affecting our teachers challenge all of us to contemplate what we genuinely value in our society.

Looking into the future of our communities in Puerto Rico, the role of a teacher in our children's lives becomes a necessity more than a luxury. The progress of a population is determined by the skills and the preparation that an individual acquires and develops during the early learning phases, phases that are often initiated by teachers.

Teachers are more than authority figures inside a classroom full of students—they are heroes in our society. Their love for their work should be awarded and respected everyday, "National Teacher Day" is a symbolic indication of the importance and magnitude of their profession in creating the future leaders of our society. As a proud Puerto Rican, I salute and thank the teachers in Puerto Rico and in the

United States for their remarkable job, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the "National Teacher Day."

TRIBUTE TO NEIL DE KOKER, IN HONOR OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Neil De Koker, a giant in the automotive supply industry and the recipient of the 2004 Executive Leadership Award from the Marketing & Sales Executives of Detroit.

Known as a man who can turn a concept into reality, Neil founded the Original Equipment Suppliers Association, a strategic forum for automotive suppliers. With 353 members and global sales exceeding \$300 billion worth of components, modules, systems, materials, and equipment used by the original equipment automotive industry, the OESA has provided information for over 4800 customers since its founding in August of 1998.

A veteran auto industry executive, Neil's extraordinary skills as a manager creating consensus and delivering results, has led him to being recognized around the world as a key spokesman for the automotive supplier industry in North America.

Neil's career, from furthering the growth and welfare of OESA members, to his 39 years in the automotive field, including playing a key part in establishing the Saturn Corporation, has vastly improved the automotive industry, the outlook of this key economic sector and the people who work within it.

I am honored today to recognize Neil De Koker for his outstanding achievements and the undeniably positive impact he has had upon our State and Nation. He is truly an invaluable citizen.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COAST GUARD PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS NATHAN B. BRUCKENTHAL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, who was killed on April 24th in a suicide attack in the northern Arabian Gulf. He is a true hero—a man who served his country and did the nation's work in the most dangerous part of the world. Our entire community grieves his loss.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal, 24, along U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Michael J. Pemaselli, 27, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Christopher E. Watts, 28, boarded a small boat that approached the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal in the northern Arabian Gulf in order to inspect it. As it turns out, the boat was carrying bombs and exploded, killing all three young men.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal was stationed at Air Station Miami at the Opa Locka Airport in

my Congressional district prior to his deployment in Iraq. He and his wife had their home together in nearby Ft. Lauderdale.

Our brave men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard have long fought alongside our other members of the U.S. Armed Forces, but Petty Officer Bruckenthal's death is the first combat death of a member of the Coast Guard since the Vietnam War. He will be buried on May 7th at Arlington National Cemetery.

My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Petty Officer Bruckenthal and those of the other young men who were mortally wounded in this terrorist assault. They gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country, and we will never forget them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my vote on H.R. 4181 was not recorded. I would ask that the RECORD reflect that as a cosponsor of H.R. 4181 the record should reflect that I should have been recorded as voting "aye" on final passage.

CONGRATULATING RALPH AND CATHERINE BROSI ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ralph and Catherine Brosi as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. A party is being held in their honor on May 2, 2004 at the Dante Club in Fresno, California.

Ralph and Catherine Brosi were married on May 2, 1954 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Fresno, California. They are both natives of Fresno, California and currently make their home in Clovis, California. Ralph graduated from Clovis High School in 1946 and went on to serve in the United States Army from 1952–1954. Catherine graduated from Edison High School in 1945, and was later employed as a medical secretary. Ralph and Catherine started a successful farming and ranching business, Brosi's Poultry Farm.

Ralph and Catherine have always set a strong example of family values for their children. Their son, Robert, was born in 1955 and is currently a dentist practicing in Oakhurst, California. In 1956 their daughter, Karen, was born. Karen currently works as a Financial Planner in Mountain View, California. They enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren, Deena, Jenna, and Cayla.

The Brosi's are currently retired, but have been involved with various volunteer organizations in their community throughout the years. Ralph is a member of the California Water Fowlers Association, the Sons of Italy, Ducks Unlimited and has served as the President of the Clovis 20/30 Club. Catherine is an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.